

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claim 11 (new): A method of producing a jointless and porous granular covering, in which rubber-elastic granules and a binder are mixed and applied to a base to form a sheetlike surfacing, wherein prior to the curing of the binder, the sheetlike surfacing is compacted and smoothed on an upper side, and prior to the curing of the binder, the compacted and smoothed surfacing is provided with a texture on the upper side by being subjected to mechanical pressure using an uneven embossing face.

Claim 12 (new): The method according to claim 11, wherein the granules have a mean particle size in a range from approximately 0.1 to 3 mm.

Claim 13 (new): The method according to claim 11, wherein the compacted surfacing is textured using a roller having an uneven roller surface.

Claim 14 (new): The method according to claim 11, wherein the sheetlike surfacing is compacted and smoothed using a heated screed.

Claim 15 (new): The method according to claim 11, wherein the compacted and smoothed surfacing is textured using a heated roller.

Claim 16 (new): The method according to claim 11, wherein the compacted and smoothed surfacing is provided with an irregular texture.

Claim 17 (new): A granular covering in which rubber-elastic granules and a binder are mixed and applied to a base to form a sheetlike surfacing, wherein prior to the curing of the binder, the sheetlike surfacing is compacted and smoothed on an upper side, prior to the curing of the binder, the compacted and smoothed surfacing is provided with a texture on the upper side by being subjected to mechanical pressure using an uneven embossing face, and the upper side has been provided with elevations and depressions in an irregular arrangement.

Claim 18 (new): The granular covering according to claim 17, wherein the covering is used for sports facilities.

Claim 19 (new): The granular covering according to claim 18, wherein the covering forms a surfacing of a running track.

Claim 20 (new): The granular covering according to claim 17, wherein the covering is used for a gymnastics area, play area or school playground and has regions of different texture or a smooth upper side.

Claim 21 (new): The method according to claim 12, wherein the mean particle size is in the range from approximately 0.5 to 1.5 mm.

Claim 22 (new): The method according to claim 11, wherein the compacted and smoothed surfacing is textured using an unheated roller.

Claim 23 (new): A granular covering in which rubber-elastic granules and a binder are mixed and applied to a base to form a sheetlike surfacing, wherein prior to the curing of the binder, the sheetlike surfacing is compacted and smoothed on an upper side, prior to the curing of the binder, the compacted and smoothed surfacing is provided with a texture on the upper side by being subjected to mechanical pressure using an uneven embossing face, and the upper side has been provided with elevations and depressions in a regular arrangement.